

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-74 (canceled).

Claim 75 (new): An antisense polynucleotide, which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with SEQ ID NO:11 or with the complement thereof, wherein the high stringency conditions comprise a 6X SSC hybridization solution, and wherein hybridization is carried out at about 68°C; and wherein said antisense polynucleotide is capable of inhibiting expression of a senescence induced eIF-5A gene comprising SEQ ID NO:11.

Claim 76 (new): An antisense polynucleotide that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a polynucleotide encoding a senescence induced eIF-5A gene, wherein the high stringency conditions comprise a 6X SSC hybridization solution, and wherein hybridization is carried out at about 68°C; and wherein the polynucleotide encoding the senescence induced eIF-5A gene hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:11 under high stringency conditions wherein the high stringency conditions comprise a 6X SSC hybridization solution, and wherein hybridization is carried out at about 68°C;

and wherein the antisense polynucleotide is capable of inhibiting expression of the senescence-induced eIF-5A gene.

Claim 77 (new): A vector for transformation of plant cells comprising

- (1) the polynucleotide of claim 75; and
- (2) regulatory sequences operatively linked to the polynucleotide such that the polynucleotide is transcribed in a plant cell into which it is transformed.

Claim 78 (new): A vector for transformation of plant cells comprising

- (1) the polynucleotide of claim 76; and
- (2) regulatory sequences operatively linked to the polynucleotide such that the polynucleotide is transcribed in a plant cell into which it is transformed.

Claim 79 (new): The polynucleotide according to claim 75 wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes to the 5'-non-coding region of SEQ ID NO:11.

Claim 80 (new): The polynucleotide according to claim 75 wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes to the 3'-end of SEQ ID NO:11.

Claim 81 (new): The polynucleotide according to claim 76 wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes to 5'-non-coding region of SEQ ID NO:11.

Claim 82 (new): The polynucleotide according to claim 76 wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes to the 3'-end of SEQ ID NO:11.

Claim 83 (new): A bacterial cell transformed with the vector according to claim 77.

Claim 84 (new): A bacterial cell transformed with the vector according to claim 78.

Claim 85 (new): A transgenic plant cell comprising the vector according to claim 77.

Claim 86 (new): A transgenic plant cell comprising the vector according to claim 78.

Claim 87 (new): A plant grown from the plant cell of claim 85.

Claim 88 (new): A plant grown from the plant cell of claim 86.

Claim 89 (new): Progeny of the plant of claim 87, wherein the progeny comprise the vector of claim 77.

Claim 90 (new): Progeny of the plant of claim 88, wherein the progeny comprise the vector of claim 78.

Claim 91 (new): The vector according to claim 77 wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a constitutive promoter.

Claim 92 (new): The vector according to claim 78 wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a constitutive promoter.

Claim 93 (new): The vector according to claim 77 wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a tissue specific promoter active in the plant.

Claim 94 (new): The vector according to claim 78 wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a tissue specific promoter active in the plant.

Claim 95 (new): The vector according to claim 77 wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a senescence-induced promoter active in the plant.

Claim 96 (new): The vector according to claim 78 wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a senescence-induced promoter active in the plant.

Claim 97 (new): A plasmid comprising (1) a replication system functional in a prokaryotic host and (2) the polynucleotide according to claim 75.

Claim 98 (new): A plasmid comprising (1) a replication system functional in a prokaryotic host and (2) the polynucleotide according to claim 76.

Claim 99 (new): A plasmid comprising a replication system functional in *Agrobacterium* and the polynucleotide according to claim 75.

Claim 100 (new): A plasmid comprising a replication system functional in *Agrobacterium* and the polynucleotide according to claim 76.

Claim 101 (new): The plant of claim 87 wherein the plant is a tomato plant.

Claim 102 (new): The plant of claim 88 wherein the plant is a tomato plant.

Claim 103 (new): The plant of claim 87 wherein the plant is a flowering plant.

Claim 104 (new): The plant of claim 88 wherein the plant is a flowering plant.